

Tibetans in Exile Say: Time to Go Home

With Tibet Torn by Violent Protests, Exiles Begin March to Homeland's Border
By NICK SCHIFRIN

DHARAMSALA, India, March 15, 2008—

It is time, Chime Youngdung says, to walk home.

"We are going to our homeland," the Tibetan man proclaimed in the hills outside Dharamsala, India, the spiritual center for Tibetan Buddhism.

His head covered by a hat wet with sweat, his water bottle empty, he leads a group of Tibetan exiles who plan to walk 1,500 miles from northern India all the way to the Tibetan border. "We are here in India, but we are guests in India. And guests should go back one day."

As Youngdung and the 50 or so men behind him, each in saffron robes, continued their six-month journey, Tibetans today continued their unprecedented protest against the Chinese authorities who took over Tibet more than 50 years ago.